

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1299
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for over 40 years as a distinguished professional in the field of mental health and is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, a 1959 graduate of Baylor University, Dr. Freeman received his Master of Arts degree from Baylor in 1960 and obtained his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the Memphis State University in 1972; and

WHEREAS, from September 1970 to September 1971, Dr. Bobby Freeman admirably served internships with the Clinical Psychology Consortium, University of Tennessee, Child Development Center, Gaylor Clinic, Memphis, Tennessee and Veterans Administration Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee; APA approved; and

WHEREAS, respected for his dedication and commitment to quality care, in April of 1975 Dr. Bobby Freeman was named Executive Director of the Plateau Mental Health Center in Cookeville, a post he would hold for over 20 years until February of 1996; and

WHEREAS, a highly skilled professional who has always been in great demand, Dr. Freeman accepted the post of Assistant Professor in the Department of Education/Psychology at Tennessee Technological University in 1980, where he taught until 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Freeman also served as Clinical Psychologist for Cookeville General Hospital from 1981 to 1995 and Psychological Consultant for Warren County Public Schools from 1984 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1996, Dr. Freeman was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Volunteer Behavior Health Care System in Cookeville and in 1997 was named to his current position of President and Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, a truly gifted medical professional, prior to his extensive career in Cookeville, Dr. Bobby Freeman was Superintendent of Clover Bottom Developmental Center in Nashville from 1972 to 1975 while also serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University during this same period; and

WHEREAS, a longtime healthcare professional, Dr. Freeman began his career as a Team Psychologist at the Special Education Center at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in Ruston, Louisiana in 1960; over the years he has worked in various capacities in Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman has given of his time and considerable talents by donating thousands of volunteer hours as an active member and former President of the Tennessee Association of Community Mental Health Organizations and in work with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by his peers and colleagues, Dr. Freeman has received numerous honors over the years including the Presidents' Award for Outstanding Service from the Tennessee Association of Community Mental Health Centers and an award from the Tennessee Sheriff's Association for Recognition of Services Provided to Law Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, esteemed by mental health experts nationwide, Dr. Freeman has authored numerous professional papers and received extensive publication of his research in addition to making frequent presentations at a wide assortment of meetings and seminars; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman is a member of the Tennessee Association of Community Mental Health Organizations, the Mental Health Corporations of America, the National Association of Rural Mental Health and the EMDRIA; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Freeman has recently announced that he will be taking a much deserved retirement and will be duly missed by his many friends and co-workers in the mental health community across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Freeman will now be able to spend more time with his family while he pursues his varied interests and activities; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Dr. Freeman epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his many contributions to the mental health community has produced immeasurable benefits, both tangible and intangible; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Bobby Lee Freeman for his service to the people of Tennessee and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.